

Message Text

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14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 271045Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL CHAING MAI
SECSTATE WASHDC 6010

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 6676

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH, LA, RM, TAI

SUBJECT: IBMND - DRAFT TELEGRAM TO WASHINGTON

REFS: A. BANGKOK 15003 (NOTAL)

B. VIENTIANE 4947

C. VIENTIANE 4773

1. RE DRAFT TELEGRAM TO WASHINGTON ON DISCUSSION OF
IBMND AT RECENT TRI-COUNTRY NARCOTICS MEETING, SUGGEST
BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON LAOS IN PARA 3 OF REF A READ:
"IN LAOS THE IBMND MAINTAINS A SMALL GARRISON FORCE AT
NAM KUENG AND A RADIO RELAY STATION AT MUONG HI, BOTH
IN HOUA KHONG PROVINCE, AS WELL AS A SMALL OFFICE IN
VIENTIANE."

2. RE PARA 7 OF REF A, CONCERNING EMBASSY DEMARCHE TO
SOUVANNA, SUGGEST THAT IT READ: "ON JULY 12, THE
AMERICAN CHARGE IN VIENTIANE APPROACHED PRIME MINISTER
SOUVANNA PHOUMA CONCERNING IBMND PRESENCE IN LAOS.
CHARGE ARGUED THAT THE REMOVAL OF IBMND PRESENCE IN
LAOS WAS IN BEST INTEREST OF RLG, SINCE IT WOULD:
SECRET

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(A) ENHANCE LAOS' NEUTRAL IMAGE; (B) ELIMINATE A SOURCE
OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT AT HOME AND
ABROAD; AND (C) AVOID CERTAIN POSSIBLE PRATICIAL
PROBLEMS, NOT ONLY OF POSSIBLE DRUG TRAFFICKING, BUT

OF IRRITATING NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (ESPECIALLY THE PRC). SOUVANNA ACKNOWLEDGED THE PRESENCE OF IBMND PERSONNEL IN LAOS. HE EXPRESSED NO REAL OBJECTION TO SMALL IBMD OFFICE IN VIENTIANE, BUT VOICED HOPE THAT IBMND PROVINCIAL ELEMENTS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN. IN VIEW OF HECTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN LAOS FOLLOWING JULY MEETING, EMBASSY VIENTIANE HAS NOT RAISED THIS MATTER AGAIN WITH SOUVANNA. IT IS PREPARED TO DO SO AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME."

3. WE BELIEVE THAT RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING LAOS (PARA 11(E), REF A) SHOULD READ: "EMBASSY VIENTIANE SHOULD NOT APPROACH RLG ON SUBJECT OF REMOVAL OF IBMND UNTIL AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT."
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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